

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims:

### LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An audio information transforming method applied to a video/audio format in which a screen includes a plurality of objects and each object has video information, position information, and audio information, said method comprising the steps of:  
~~virtual listening point setting of~~ setting a virtual listening point at a position different from a basic listening point that is set as a position at which a listener listens to an audio;  
~~comparing of~~ comparing a positional relationship between the basic listening point and the object with a positional relationship between the virtual listening point and the object; ~~and~~  
setting a position of a virtual sound source; and  
~~changing of~~ changing an allocation ratio of an audio to a plurality of audio outputting means based on a compared result in the comparing step, a position of the virtual listening point and the position of the virtual sound source.
2. (Currently Amended) An audio information transforming method applied to a video/audio format in which each scene produced on a screen has video information, audio information, and a virtual sound source, said method comprising the steps of:  
~~setting of~~ setting a virtual listening point at a position different from a basic listening point that is set as a position at which a listener listens to an audio;  
~~comparing of~~ comparing a positional relationship between the basic listening point and the virtual sound source with a positional relationship between the virtual listening point and the virtual sound source; and

~~changing of changing~~ an allocation ratio of an audio to a plurality of audio outputting means based on a compared result in the comparing step, a position of the virtual listening point and a position of the virtual sound source.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An audio information transforming method applied to a video/audio format in which a screen contains a plurality of objects and each object has video information, position information, and 1-channel audio information, said method comprising the steps of:

~~setting of setting~~ a virtual listening point at a position different from a basic listening point that is set as a position at which a listener listens to an audio;

~~comparing of comparing~~ a positional relationship between the basic listening point and the object with a positional relationship between the virtual listening point and the object; ~~and~~  
setting a position of a virtual sound source; and

~~allocating of allocating~~ the 1-channel audio information to a plurality of audio outputting means based on a result in the comparing step, a position of the virtual listening point and the position of the virtual sound source.

5. (Original) The audio information transforming method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of:

adding direction information to the virtual listening point or the virtual sound source.

6. (Original) The audio information transforming method according to Claim 2, further comprising a step of:

adding direction information to the virtual listening point or the virtual sound source.

7. (Original) The audio information transforming method according to Claim 4, further comprising a step of:

adding direction information to the virtual listening point or the virtual sound source.

8. (Currently Amended) A program product of audio information transforming for causing a computer to execute the procedures of:

setting a virtual listening point;

setting a position of a virtual sound source;

comparing a positional relationship between a basic listening point and an object with a positional relationship between the virtual listening point and the object; and

changing an allocation ratio of an audio to a plurality of audio outputting means based on a result in the comparing procedure, a position of the virtual listening point and the position of the virtual sound source.

9. (Currently Amended) A program product of audio information transforming for causing a computer to execute the procedures of:

setting a virtual listening point;

comparing a positional relationship between a basic listening point and a virtual sound source with a positional relationship between the virtual listening point and the virtual sound source; and

changing an allocation ratio of an audio to a plurality of audio outputting means based on a result in the comparing procedure, a position of the virtual listening point and a position of the virtual sound source.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A program product of audio information transforming for causing a computer to execute the procedures of:

setting a virtual listening point;

setting a position of a virtual sound source;

comparing a positional relationship between a basic listening point and an object with a positional relationship between the virtual listening point and the object; and

allocating 1-channel audio information to a plurality of audio outputting means based on a result in the comparing procedure, a position of the virtual listening point and the position of the virtual sound source.

12. (Currently Amended) An audio information transforming device for a video/audio format in which a scene reproduced on a screen is constructed to contain objects and each object has video information, position information, and audio information, said device comprising:

[[a]] means for deciding a virtual listening point at a position different from a basic listening point that is set as a position at which a listener listens to an audio;

means for setting a position of a virtual sound source;

[[a]] means for comparing a positional relationship between the basic listening point and the object with a positional relationship between the virtual listening point and the object; and

[[a]] means for changing an allocation ratio of an audio to a plurality of audio outputting means based on a result of the comparing means, a position of the virtual listening point and the position of the virtual sound source.

13. (Currently Amended) An audio information transforming device for a video/audio format in which each scene produced on a screen has video information, audio information, and a virtual sound source, said device comprising:

[[a]] means for deciding a virtual listening point at a position different from a basic listening point that is set as a position at which a listener listens to an audio;

[[a]] means for comparing a positional relationship between the basic listening point and the virtual sound source with a positional relationship between the virtual listening point and the virtual sound source; and

[[a]] means for changing an allocation ratio of an audio to a plurality of audio outputting means based on a result of the comparing means, a position of the virtual listening point and a position of the virtual sound source.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) An audio information transforming device for a video/audio format in which a screen contains a plurality of objects and each object has video information, position information, and 1-channel audio information, said device comprising:

[[a]] means for deciding a virtual listening point at a position different from a basic listening point that is set as a position at which a listener listens to an audio;

means for setting a position of a virtual sound source;

[[a]] means for comparing a positional relationship between the basic listening point and the object with a positional relationship between the virtual listening point and the object; and

[[a]] means for allocating the 1-channel audio information to a plurality of audio outputting means based on a result of the comparing means, a position of the virtual listening point and the position of the virtual sound source..

16. (Original) The audio information transforming device according to Claim 12, wherein the virtual listening point or the virtual sound source has direction information.

17. (Original) The audio information transforming device according to Claim 13,

wherein the virtual listening point or the virtual sound source has direction information.

18. (Original) The audio information transforming device according to Claim 15,  
wherein the virtual listening point or the virtual sound source has direction information.